

The China Mail

Established February, 1845.

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號一月二年八十八百八十一英

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1888

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. ALAB, 11 & 12, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E. C.; GORDON STREET & Co., 30, Cornhill; GORDON & GÖTTSCHE, Ludgate Circus, E.C.; BATES & HENRY & Co., 37, Walbrook, E.C.

SAMUEL DRAON & Co., 150 & 154, Leadenhall Street, W. M. WILLIS, 151, Cannon Street, E.C.

PARIS AND EUROPE.—AMEDEE PRINCE & Co., 36, Rue Lafayette, Paris.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 21, Park Row.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally.—BRAN & BLACK, San Francisco.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GORDON & GOTCH, Melbourne and Sydney.

Ceylon.—W. M. SMITH & Co., The APOPOGANIE Co., Colombo.

SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.—SALEY & Co., Square, Singapore.

C. HEINZEN & Co., Manila.

CHINA.—Macao, F. A. de CRUZ, Seaview, Quilon & Co., Amoy, N. MOALIE, Penang, HEDGE & Co., Shanghai.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., and KELLY & WALSH, Yokohama, LANE, Grawford & Co., and KELLY & Co.

BANKS.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Paid-up Capital.....\$1,500,000
Reserve Fund.....\$3,900,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors.....\$1,500,000

Court of Directors:

Chairman—Hon. JOHN BELL IRVING.
Deputy Chairman—W. H. FORBES, Esq.
C. D. BOTTOMLEY, Hon. A. P. McEWEN,
Esq.

W. G. BRODIE, Esq.
H. L. DALBYNPLE, Esq.

J. S. MOSER, Esq.
L. POESNECKER, Esq.

H. HOPPIUS, Esq.
E. A. SOLOMON, Esq.
B. DAYTON, Esq.

Chief Manager—Thomas JACKSON, Esq.

Manager—Shanghai, EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

London Banks—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.
Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the date balanced.

On Fixed Deposits—

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.

10 " 4 per cent. "

12 " 5 per cent. "

Local Bills Discounted.

Orbital grants on approved Securities and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on London, and the chief Commercial ports in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, January 25, 1888. 363

NOTICE.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS' BANK.

1.—The business of the above Bank will be conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on their premises in Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10 to 3; Saturdays, 10 to 1.

2.—Sums less than \$1, or more than \$250 at one time will not be received. No depositor may deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year.

3.—Depositors in the Savings' Bank having \$100 or more at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. annual interest.

4.—Interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum will be allowed to depositors on their daily balances.

5.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis with a Pass-Book which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their Pass-Books but should send them to the beginning of January and beginning of July.

6.—Correspondence as to the business of the Bank is marked On Hongkong Savings' Bank Business is forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

7.—Withdrawals may be made on demand but the personal attendance of the depositor or his duly appointed agent, and the production of his Pass-Book as necessary.

For the

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, September 1, 1888. 764

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST and RESPONSIBILITY of Mr. ALFRED TIDSWELL DUVAL in our Firm ceased on the 31st December, 1887.

DEACON & Co.,
Canton, 7th January, 1888. 45

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST and RESPONSIBILITY of the late Mr. RICHARD VON CARLOWITZ and his Heirs in our Firm ceased on the 31st December, 1887.

CARLOWITZ & Co.,
Hongkong, January 21, 1888. 112

Intimations.

PIERRE & LUBIN,
PARISIAN FABRIC,
from
a
price
flower
breathes
fragrance.

SWEET SCENTS
LOXOTIS OPOONAX
FRANQUINNI PISIUM
May be obtained
of any Chemist or
Perfumer
Road Street, London.

NOTICE.

SANITARY NOTIFICATION.

SMALL-POX.

THE SANITARY BOARD desire to inform the public the necessity, for the purpose of disinfection, of sleeping all Bedclothes and Wearing Apparel, used by persons suffering from SMALL-POX, in holding water for at least 15 minutes before allowing such Articles to go to the wash.

By Order,

WM. EDWARD CROW,
Honorary Secretary to
Sanitary Board.

Hongkong, 27th January, 1888. 103

NOTICE.

FOR THE CONVENIENCE of Customers and

PRODUCTION of the CHINA SILK REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED, can henceforward be obtained by RETAILERS NEAR GASH, at No. 3, PEEL STREET, at the same prices as at the REFINERY; and Retail Orders will be delivered at addresses in town on application forwarding their Monthly Requirements in writing direct to the REFINERY at East Point.

JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co., General Agents.

Hongkong, July 27, 1888. 1128

DENTISTRY.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP.

MODERATE FEES.

MR. WONG TAI-FONG,
Surgeon Dentist,

(FORMERLY APPRENTICE AND LATERLY ASSISTANT TO DR. ROGERS.)

AT the urgent request of his European

and American patients and friends, has TAKEN THE OFFICE formerly occupied by DR. ROGERS,

No. 2, DUDDELL STREET.

CONSULTATION FREE.

Discount to missionaries and families.

Sole Address

2, DUDDELL STREET,
(Next to the New Oriental Bank.)

Hongkong, January 12, 1888. 66

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that all VESSELS DISCHARGING BOMBAY CUTTON and COTTON YARN at the KOWLOON WHARVES will have FREE STORAGE for 24 days from arrival, after which a rent of 3 CENTS per bale per month will be charged.

ISAAC HUGHES,
Secretary.

Hongkong, November 7, 1887. 2148

J. D. KILEY,
SAIL-MAKER.

LENTS, AWNINGS AND

FLAGS.

No. 23, Praya Central,

HONGKONG.

Hongkong, November 1, 1887. 2135

THE CHINA & JAPAN TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CENTRAL EXCHANGE 4, CLUB CHAMBERS.

THE above Company's EXCHANGE is

NOW OPEN for Telephonic Communication.

Rate of Subscription is \$80 per Annum,

payable quarterly in advance. Electrical

Material of all descriptions kept in stock

for Sale.

ELECTRIC BELLS a speciality.

Houses fitted up and kept in order at

most Moderate Prices.

TELEPHONE MATERIAL supplied on

Sale or Hire.

AGENTS for ELECTRIC LIGHTING, both ARC and INCANDESCENT.

Estimates furnished free.

HAROLD DOWSON,
Agent,

HONGKONG.

Hongkong, August 24, 1887. 1610

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-THIRD ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY

MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Company,

Pedder's Street, on FRIDAY, the 10th

February, at Noon, to receive a Statement

of the Accounts of the Company to the 31st

December, 1887, and the Report of the

General Managers, also to discuss any

matters that may be competently brought

before the Meeting.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company

will be CLOSED from the 31st Instant to

the 10th Proximo, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATTHESON & Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, January 26, 1888. 137

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-THIRD ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY

MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the

Company will be held at the Office

of the Company, No. 7, Queen's Road

Central, on SATURDAY, the 4th

February, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the

purpose of receiving a Report of the

Directors, together with a Statement of

Accounts, declaring a Dividend, and electing

Auditors.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company

will be CLOSED from the 26th Instant to

the 4th February, inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

F. HENDERSON,

Acting Secretary.

The Address as above.

Hongkong, January 4, 1888. 91

NOTICE.

MR. M. GROTE has THIS DAY been

Admitted a PARTNER in our Firm.

CHATER & VERNON.

Hongkong, January 1, 1888. 5

NOTICE.

PLANS and ESTIMATES prepared for

Notices to Consignees.

THE CHINA SHIPPERS MUTUAL
STEAM NAVIGATION COM-
PANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL AND
SINGAPORE.

THE Company's S.S. *Megame*, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the HOKKOKU AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, LIMITED, Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Claims must be sent in to the Office of the Undersigned, before Noon on the 7th February, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance has been effected, and no Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 7th February will be subject to rent.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before 3 p.m. To-day.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, January 31, 1888. 169

FR JM HAMBURG, PENANG AND
SINGAPORE.

THE S.S. *Polyphemia*, Capt. SCHAEFER, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for counter-signature by the Undersigned, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Any cargo impeding her discharge will be landed into the Godowns of the KOWLOON PIER AND GODOWN CO. and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 7th Feb. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 7th February.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

SIEMSEN & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, January 31, 1888. 166

FROM HAMBURG, PENANG AND
SINGAPORE.

THE S.S. *Cassandra*, Captain BEUKENS, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for counter-signature by the Undersigned, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before Noon on the 7th Instant.

Any cargo impeding her discharge will be landed into the Godowns of the KOWLOON PIER AND GODOWN CO. and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 7th Feb. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 7th February.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

SIEMSEN & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, January 31, 1888. 123

GERMAN BARQUE DOROTHEA, Capt.
MOLLE, FROM HAMBURG.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo by the above
Vessel are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the Undersigned for counter-signature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge will be at once landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

SIEMSEN & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, January 30, 1888. 156

INSURANCES.

NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents of the above
Company, are authorized to insure
against FIRE at Current Rates.

GILMAN & CO.

Hongkong, January 1, 1888. 14

NOTICE.
THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY
(LIMITED).

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED.....\$1,000,000.

THE above Company is prepared to accept MARINE RISKS at Current Rates on Goods, &c. Policies granted to all parts of the World payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

Hongkong, December 2, 1887. 2349

THE LONDON ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF
His Majesty King George The First,
A.D. 1720.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Corporation as follows:—

Marine Department.

Policies issued at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.

Fire Department.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

Life Department.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding \$5,000 at reduced rates.

HOLIDAY, WISE & CO.

Hongkong, July 26, 1872. 496

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to ACCEPT
RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

NORTON & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, July 15, 1887. 1340

Entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL,

CITY HALL

THE HONGKONG CHORAL
SOCIETY

WILL PERFORM
GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S OPERETTA

'THE SOKERER,'

ON

T H U R S D A Y ,

9th February, at 9 o'clock p.m.

Tickets may be obtained from Messrs.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and after Wed-

nesday, 1st February, at 9 a.m. Price, \$2.

R. LYALL,
Acting Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, January 28, 1888. 144

To-day's Advertisements.

FOR SHANGAI.

The Steamship

Ningpo,

Captain F. SCHULZ, will

be despatched for the

above Port TO-MORROW, the 2nd Inst., at

4 p.m., instead of as previously advertised.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SIEMSEN & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, February 1, 1888. 174

FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIODO.

The Steamship

Polyphemia,

Captain SCHAEFER, will

be despatched for the

above Ports on FRIDAY, the 3rd Inst., at

4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, February 1, 1888. 180

N O T I C E .

I HAVE THIS DAY ESTABLISHED MYSELF
AS LAND, SHARE AND GENERAL
BROKER.

A. RUMJAHN.

Hongkong, February 1, 1888. 178

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Nineteenth Ordinary MEETING
OF SHAREHOLDERS in the
Company will be held at the OFFICES of the Company, Pedder's Street, on MONDAY, the 20th February instant, at 12 o'clock (noon), to receive a Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1887, the Report of the General Manager, and to elect a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company

will be CLOSED from the 8th to the 21st

Instant, both days inclusive.

By Order,

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,

Secretary.

Hongkong, February 1, 1888. 179

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Nineteenth Ordinary Annual
MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the
above Company will be held at the
OFFICES of the Company, Pedder's Street, on
MONDAY, the 20th February instant, at
12 o'clock (noon), to receive a Statement
of Accounts to the 31st December, 1887, the
Report of the General Manager, and to elect a
Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The Transfer BOOKS of the Company

will be CLOSED from the 8th to the 21st

Instant, both days inclusive.

By Order,

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,

Secretary.

Hongkong, February 1, 1888. 179

Occidental & Oriental Steam-

Ship Company.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS
TO JAPAN, THE UNITED
STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND
SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE,
VIA
THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS,
AND
ATLANTIC & OTHER CONNECTING
STEAMERS.

THE Steamship *OCEANIC* will be

despatched for San Francisco, via

Yokohama, on WEDNESDAY, the 22nd

Instant, at 3 p.m.

Connection being made at Yokohama,

with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan.

All Parcels Packages should be marked to

address in full; and same will be received at

the Company's Office, until 5 p.m. the day previous to sailing.

First-class Fare granted as follows:—

To San Francisco \$200.00

To San Francisco and return \$350.00

available for 6 months \$300.00

To Liverpool \$333.00

To London \$333.00

To other European points at proportionate rates.

Special reduced rates granted to

Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service

and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be

obtained on application.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, to

address at San Francisco for China or

Japan (or vice versa) within one year will be

allowed a discount of 10%.

This allowance does not apply to through fares from China

and Japan to Europe.

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo

destined to points beyond San Francisco,

in the United States, should be sent to the

Company's Office, addressed to the Collec-

tor of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight

or Passage, apply to the Agency of the

Company, No. 50, Queen's Road Central.

G. D. HARMAN,
Agent.

QUEEN FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY.

THE Undersigned, Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to ACCEPT

RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

WOMAN'S RIGHTS IN KUANGTUNG.—Under the above heading we find the following in the *Shih-pao* of the 3rd inst.:—In the district of Shan-ta in Kuangtung the girls have brought themselves into societies, and solemnly vow that they will never marry, or that if they marry, they will never consent to cohabit with their husbands until every member of their society has entered into matrimony. In strict accordance with those vows, the girls, when they marry, invariably go back to their homes on the third day after marriage, always taking care to preserve their chastity. They do not make their appearance at their husbands' family again except on the occasion of New Year and other important festivals, when they come over, and, after remaining for a day or so, during which time they partake of neither food nor drink, they take themselves off with the greatest expedition possible. In this way young men who are married do not get their wives for years, and in many cases for ten years after their marriage. Those who have wives two or three years after marrying are cases of rare occurrence. It forces us to resort to certain girls from abroad back to their homes, they always turn their comedy into a tragedy by committing suicide. And it is a fact that the girls frequently conceal within their persons some powerful drug, which they use as soon as force is applied to obtain them. Formerly the magistrate was always full of howling parents, who went to sue their sons-in-law for having caused the death of their daughters—at length one of the magistrates, becoming utterly disgusted with this ridiculous nuisance, and seeing that the girls themselves were invariably to be blamed for their fadiness, decided that he would have nothing further to do with such lawsuits, and proclaimed that if any should thereafter dare to bring such complaints to him, he would deal severely with them. This decided step had the desired effect: it diminished by more than half the number of suits. Another custom quite common with the girls of this district is to die in company, seven being the usual number. Those girls who had taken the vow of perpetual chastity, when they discovered that their parents had betrothed husbands for them, secretly band themselves together for a common fate, and stealing out in the stillness of midnight, hand joined to hand, they threw themselves into a pond or lake.

THE MEDICAL COMMISSION ON FEVER.

The Medical Commissioners met this afternoon, all the members being present. There were also present—Deputy Surgeon-General Lower, Major Brooke, Mr Macintosh and Mr J. B. Coughtrie, who had been called to give evidence.

Dr Cantlie reported that only he and Dr Young had met on Monday to inspect the drains. They were accompanied by Mr Price, who supplied a plan of the drains. They had not visited the whole of the neighbourhood and did not think it right to report until they had done so. It was arranged that the Commission should meet again on Friday at 4.30, to continue the work of inspection.

Deputy Surgeon General Lower, who was the first witness called on to give evidence, stated that he had had a great deal of fever in his house. With regard to the character of the fever he wished to be allowed to qualify his answer to that question, inasmuch as that from May to about the middle of October cases of fever among his servants and in his own household occurred which were of this anomalous type and could not be classed under any of the headings included in the nomenclature of the medical profession. It was accompanied by faintness almost amounting to collapse, the symptom being most marked. He could scarcely say how long this type of fever lasted. Mrs Lewer was still suffering from the effects of it, as yet unable to gain strength or to take food properly, while those of his servants who had had fever of the same type had been removed before recovery. The symptoms enumerated in the printed question No. 5—rigor, pyrexia, and diaphoresis—were all absent.

The Chairman—I suppose there was some elevation of temperature?

Mr Lewer—No; it was mere collapse, with cold, clammy sweats.

Dr Mansan—Then it was not fever in that case?

Dr Cantlie—You say the type changed, and you now refer to the later type?

Dr Yarr—Your answers refer more to the cases among your servants previous to October?

Dr Lewer said that was so; his servants had suffered very much.

The Chairman asked Dr Lewer to describe one case.

Dr Lewer said the usual characteristics of the disease were absent, and the type seemed to him to be peculiar to Hongkong. He had not noticed in India or elsewhere the same type of remittent fever and he was of opinion that it was peculiar to Hongkong, so far as he was able to judge. In the neighbourhood in which his house is situated, he went on to say, there were terrible smells coming from north-west and also from the China town below, so much so that he was obliged to shut his front windows in order to exclude these smells if possible. There was another smell which came from the West of his house which seemed to be that of rotten vegetation. Such smells had been very perceptible in the various roads and with increased intensity on the upper levels of the hill, being felt most strongly of all behind the tanks on Caine Road, just before reaching the London Mission House. At these places the smells had been so bad that one was obliged to close all one's air passages in passing along the road. When the wind was northward the stinks increased in number and attained their maximum putrefaction. As China town was included in the Western District and therefore came within the scope of this inquiry, he wished to say that he thought the effluvia arising from the mass of human beings who were packed so densely in China town, and who lived under such inhuman conditions had been potent factors in bringing about the sickness in the W. storey District—in addition, he meant, to the prevalence of fever.

The Chairman—From your observations in

your neighbourhood do you believe that the drainage is defective?

Dr Lewer said as regards his own house there were no drains; his house had been connected with the so-called sewer system. The drainage from his house ran down the hill to the north of the house and then spread itself over the ground, giving rise to some very rank vegetation. He had no doubt that if they were to dig into the soil they would find it polluted for several feet down. Another point he would like to speak on was the water supply. There was no water led into his house; all the water that was used had to be carried by hand and stored in barrels in a cramped backyard, in the vicinity of a Chinese latrine, and it was therefore exposed very much to injury. The water came from a tank and was carried by his coolies in buckets, from which it was poured into the carts. All this involved a great deal of risk from pollution. His servants also suffered from the aqua-forte fever. He did not think it was a new type of fever.

Dr Cantlie said it was the kind of fever described in the text books as being caused by sewer gas.

Deputy Surgeon General Lower—There was in the case of my wife utter prostration, fits almost amounting to collapse. He did not think his house would be improved by connection with the main sewerage. With the drains as they were, they would be worse than they were just now. He thought his house would be improved if the coolie's latrine were removed and the dead wall at the back removed. He thought a system of public latrines such as had in India should be adopted here, places where the servants in a district could go to, and which would be paid for by a contribution from each house. He would recommend planting the hill above with trees. The soil required drainage, and the whole surface disturbed should be covered up. The turning up of the soil, he thought, gave rise to the malarial fever, but not to the fever which he incurred in October. Quinine had no effect.

Major Brooke said he had not had fever in 1887. His child had fever, in June, which he believed was of a typhoid kind. His wife was taken with fever on October of a different character. It began on the 3rd and recurred at intervals up till the 17th December. It came on, roughly speaking, every Thursday. In 1887 they all had what was known as the usual Hongkong fever and got better by taking quinine. The attack in 1887 was much stronger. The fever suffered by his wife was believed of a malarial type. He had not smelt as a rule bad smells and was on the whole satisfied with his coolie-house. The drainage went into a gully, which he thought was trapped below. He attributed the fever to the proximity of the house to China town and to the turning up of the ground. The planting of trees would to a certain extent cover up exposed soil.

Mr E. Mackintosh said he had not suffered personally from fever in 1887. One of his children was sick in November and had attacks all of the same character. The symptoms were a chill, heat, damp sweating and the attacks occurred every second day. The fever left when they returned to the Peak. There was no fever prior to 1887. He was satisfied with the drainage of his house. During the short time he was down below he was saluted on his way home with the most obnoxious odour. Past Sunnyside there was a native village from which the odour was something fearful. In fact on his way home, commencing from Artillery Mess, he could trace the smells along the whole road and could tell where he was with his eyes shut by the smell. He believed that their level was practically a ventilation for the stinks of Chitown. Thavapour could be seen rising. The island was made for surface drainage and soil drainage. His house was perfectly healthy before 1886. He believed the trees with which they were shut in saved them from most of the bad odours.

Mr Coughtrie said he had fever in 1887 towards the end of the year. He could not tell the duration, nor give the dates as he had not taken notes. The symptoms were, severe chill lasting for sometimes an hour, followed by heat; during the chill there was violent sickness and vomiting. The attacks occurred at an interval of a day. He had not had fever while living in Belmont since 1878. He went to the Peak in November and the attacks had recurred there. His wife and all his children had suffered from similar attacks. He attributes the fever caught in his new house to the cutting of a passage through the hill a little below and bringing the earth and putting it on the road. He was not bothered with smells from China town, but he had trouble with his coolies to get them to fetch water from the reservoir.

The Commission then adjourned, and it was agreed to call for next meeting Mr Danby, Mr J. D. Humphreys, Mr Bate, Mr J. G. Smith, Mr Gilkes and Mr Hazelnd.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE REGISTRATION OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL'

February 1st.

Sir,—I have scarcely time to carry on a newspaper discussion, but I feel in duty bound to refer to the criticism of my remarks by your morning contemporary. The subject is a very important one, one fraught with great consequences, either for good or ill, to this port; and as it received almost no consideration from the general public before action was taken by the Government, it behoves those interested to make the most use possible of the short two weeks grace that has been given us.

The criticisms made in your paper of the Bill for the Registration of Imports and Exports have called for what I must confess is the fullest statement I have yet seen of the benefits expected from such legislation. It is customary in introducing a Bill, or at any rate in moving its second reading, for the spokesman of the Government to enter fully into the benefits likely to be conferred by the proposed measure, and try to meet the objections that may be raised against it. Whether it is that the Government have but a half-hearted interest in this new Bill, or for some reason or other, no such detailed statement was given; and, had it not been for the timely interposition of Mr Ryrie, the Bill would have been rushed through committee with scarcely any discussion, and an important change made in the policy of the C. I. C. in a spirit of almost frivolous indifference.

The main object, it would appear from the remarks of the writer in the *Daily Press*, of the proposed Ordinance for the Registration of Imports and Exports is to demonstrate to the world that we are not nobodies in Hongkong, that we are a great people; that we deal in millions and not thousands, that although we are few-striken and congealed by small-pox and cannot put our drains in order, we are a colony of wealthy merchants and have no lack of money. Modesty has never been a striking characteristic of Hongkong. We took occasion in our Jubilee addresses to tell her Majesty we were men of importance; we have always had a grand conceit of ourselves, and now we are to advertise ourselves to the world in grand style. Advertising is not a bad way

of pushing business, but the element of cost is a great consideration. And in this case, is not the advertisement rather small? Would not a large-type notice in the *Times* do better?—something in this fashion—'Enormous Success, Shippments Enterprise, Hongkong the great Port of the East, \$10,000,000 business; Merchants Apply early, &c.'

But, to take the matter more seriously, do we need any such blowing of trumpet? It is very rarely that a merchant studies statistics with regard to the bulk of a port's trade before sending merchandise through it for an other port. The statistics of a large importing or exporting country may be useful to him as showing what commodities are wanted and what are produced, or whether certain goods are growing or decreasing in favour; but he will hardly find guidance in any statistics such as could be made up here as to the best means of sending forward his goods or bringing them from the producing districts. All this would be of the most elaborate statistics that a large bulk of the trade of South China passes through Hongkong. And that knowledge he may have already. Do not the statistics of the Imperial Customs of China complain of the same? The following report of the work in Hongkong carried on by the Rev. A. G. Goldsmith, Seaman's Chaplain, is just as interesting as any statistics could be:

Wednesday, Feb. 1.

THE SEAMAN'S CHAPLAIN'S REPORT FOR 1887.

In SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before His Hon. Mr. A. J. Leach, Acting Vice-Chairman.)

THE CHINA MAIL.

TO SIC HUNG TONG YAU LUK AND ANOTHER.

Further evidence in this case was heard by Mr. Wotton appearing for the plaintiff and Mr. Evans for the defendant Yau Luk.

Yau Luk, the first defendant, said—I am a contractor, my firm was the On Sing Li. Having lost money in connection with the Taitun water works I ceased to be a partner in the firm. Kwok Yuk Kai my partner in December last brought the plaintiff to my place, and told me that he had borrowed \$20 from her on account of the Taitun work. I never heard of the money before that. I do not owe the plaintiff any money, and never gave her a promissory note. I never authorised Kwok Yuk Kai to give her a promissory note for him. When I failed I made a private arrangement with my creditors; I have not carried it out. I have only one creditor in connection with the Taitun work. The list produced is a list of my creditors in connection with an emigration matter. It amounts to \$94.08.

Mr Evans said his case really rested upon the weakness of the case for the plaintiff, who had brought two actions and had told the court that the plaintiff had been marred by progress. And it is hoped that there is some improvement in the condition of things as concerns the welfare of Jack ashore. Necessarily in a large colonial seaport there are many and various sorts and conditions of seafaring men to be found; but the number of beachcombers who were wont to bring tales more or less true to the generous, has, we trust, considerably lessened, and although there will always be some few of that class of men, who are not worthy of the name of sailor except as coupled with the adjective 'turnpike,' it is cause for congratulation that which is being attempted in this port, is being attempted by judicious helping where help was needed (and all credit is due to the present Superintendent of the Sailors' Home), and that the seafarers of the crew have been made more honest and reverenced. That the meeting broke up. At the next meeting of the society the question, as to whether a man is under obligation to speak the truth on all occasions, will be discussed. Dr Martin leading for the affirmative and Mr Addis for the negative.

Mr Murray's school for the blind has now eight boys and two girls. Two boys are on their way from Manchuria. One of the pupils of former years is at Hankow, to assist in establishing a school for the blind in that great centre.

On Friday the 2nd of February, Dr Martin leading for the affirmative and Mr Addis for the negative.

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